

SCOWCRAFT, L.L.

FBIS 153..... (OUT OF SEQUENCE)

AGGRESSION

TASS STATEMENT ON 'ISRAELI AGGRESSION'

L121803 MOSCOW TASS IN ENGLISH 1757 GMT 12 OCT 73 L

(TASS STATEMENT ON ISRAELI AGGRESSION--TASS)

(TEXT) MOSCOW OCTOBER 12 TASS--THE SOVIET UNION CANNOT REGARD INDIFFERENTLY THE CRIMINAL ACTIONS OF THE ISRAELI MILITARY, AS A RESULT OF WHICH THERE ARE VICTIMS AMONG SOVIET CITIZENS IN SYRIA AND EGYPT, SAYS A TASS STATEMENT PUBLISHED HERE.

THE SOVIET UNION DEMANDS AN IMMEDIATE STOP TO THE BOMBINGS OF PEACEFUL TOWNS IN SYRIA AND EGYPT AND THE STRICT OBSERVANCE BY ISRAEL OF THE NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, INCLUDING THOSE REGARDING THE FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION. THE CONTINUATION OF CRIMINAL ACTS BY ISRAEL WILL LEAD TO GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL ITSELF.

TODAY, AS A RESULT OF SHELLING BY ISRAELI MISSILE LAUNCHES OF THE SYRIAN PORT OF TARTUS, THE SOVIET MERCHANT SHIP "ILYA MECHNIKOV," WHICH ARRIVED AT THAT PORT WITH EQUIPMENT FOR THE HYDRO-POWER COMPLEX NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON THE EUPHRATES, WAS SUNK.

(MORE)

12 OCT 1843Z WJ/MC.....
FBIS 154 (OUT OF SEQUENCE)

FIRST ADD 153 (TASS STATEMENT)

XXX EUPHRATES, WAS SUNK.

(TEXT) FOLLOWS THE FULL TEXT OF THE TASS STATEMENT:

"ON OCTOBER 12 THE SOVIET MERCHANT SHIP ILYA MECHNIKOV, WHICH ARRIVED AT PORT TARTUS ON OCTOBER 5TH WITH EQUIPMENT FOR THE HYDROPOWER COMPLEX NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON THE EUPHRATES RIVER, WAS SUNK AS A RESULT OF SHELLING OF THAT SYRIAN PORT BY ISRAELI MISSILE LAUNCHES.

ON OCTOBER 9TH ISRAELI AIRCRAFT DROPPED BOMBS ON THE SOVIET CULTURAL CENTRE SITUATED IN ONE OF THE DISTRICTS OF DAMASCUS, WHERE THERE ARE NO MILITARY TARGETS, BUT ONLY MISSIONS OF FOREIGN STATES. THERE ARE VICTIMS AMONG SOVIET AND SYRIAN CITIZENS WHO WERE IN THIS BUILDING.

ISRAELI AIRCRAFT MADE BANDIT RAIDS ON DAMASCUS, HOMS, LATAKIA INFLECTING CONSIDERABLE MATERIAL DAMAGE, DESTROYING RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS, AND THERE ARE A GREAT NUMBER OF VICTIMS AMONG THE CIVILIAN POPULATION, WOMEN AND CHILDREN INCLUDED. IN EGYPT PORT-SAID AND THE SUBURBS OF CAIRO WERE SUBJECTED TO BOMBING RAIDS.

ALL THIS BEARS TESTIMONY TO THE FACT THAT THE ISRAELI MILITARY ARE TURNING LETHAL WEAPONS AGAINST PEACEFUL CITIZENS, AGAINST CIVILIAN TARGETS, AND EVEN CARRY OUT ATTACKS ON THE SHIPS AND PURELY CIVILIAN INSTITUTIONS OF STATES THAT DO NOT TAKE PART IN THE WAR.

THE RAIDS ON SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN TOWNS CONTINUE. THE ISRAELI RULING CIRCLES ARE EXPANDING THE AGGRESSION AGAINST ARAB STATES, ABOVE ALL AGAINST EGYPT AND SYRIA, GROSSLY TRAMPLING ON THE DECISIONS OF THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE MIDDLE EAST.

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